DWB

November No. 4

INSIDE:

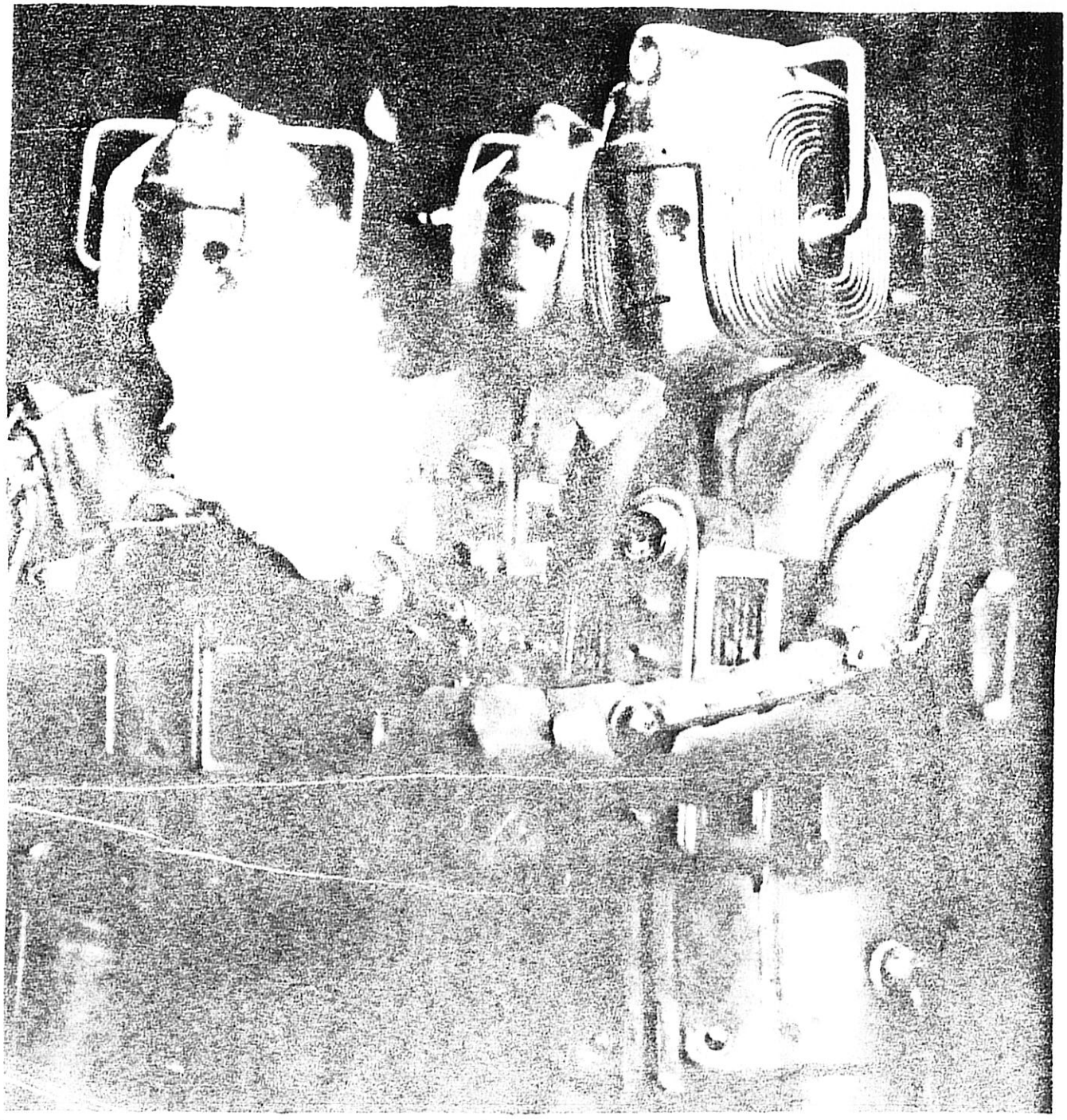
'Birthday Poll Results'

'Souvenir Poster'

'Radio - Times Special'

'Season Round-up'

& MORE!



The Cybermen: FAVOURITE FOES: 12, BEST BBC VIDEO: 15...

Editorial

It all began 20 years ago, and whilst many of us weren't even dreamed of, I'm sure I speak for everyone in saying how fortu-nate we are to be able to share the birthday of what is the longest-running BBC series of all time (and probably the longest-run-ning television series ever ?).

This month will literally see a tide of 'Doctor Whomania' sweep the country, in all types of magazines, newspapers, television programmes... culminating in what promises to be an epic story : 'Five Drs' , though from what I've heard, it won't quite be the all-time 'Classic' .

On the subject of 'Classics', may I take this oppurtunity of thanking every single person who has taken the trouble to poll their votes for twenty years of Doctor Who, the results of which begin on page 10. In all, over 60 people voted (with three more voting days to go) and the voters span a wide cross-section of the country, so I'm confident that the results are accurate to the present general feelings of Doctor Who fans as a whole. By the time Peter Davison's final season has ended, I will hold another poll to see how tastes have changed and whether Davison's last season has improved his image as the fifth Doctor...

You may have noticed I have stopped giv-ing a prize to the 'Star Letter' since it was only there in the first place to entice people to write in. However, I have found that such is the enthusiastic response to DWB, that most people do not need incenti-ves. To compensate, I hope to stage a spe-cial 'Dr Who Xmas Quiz' next month, the prizes. of which, I'm sure you'll find worth entering for.

Speaking of next issue, the highlight , I'm sure, will be the publication of some beautiful stills from 'Ressurection of the Daleks' and I would like to assure you that they give very little, if nothing, plot information away. Also, following last month's disastrous reprint of Convention photos, due to a fault at the printers(well that's my excuse) they will be perfect copies of the originals. Meanwhile, sit back and enjoy 'The Five Doctors' . . .

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UNDER ATTACK!

Now at issue 4 , I feel it is time for readers to know about the recent developements off 'DWB'.

Firstly, as readers of the 'Dr Who Appre-ciation Society will know, I have been advertising 'DWB' in the society's news-letter 'CT'. My first advert (for issue 3) appeared in the Octo-ber issue , along with a paragraph by the editor, Gordon Roxburgh which reads as follows:"IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT I COMMENT ON FANZINES, BUT ONE THAT BILLS ITSELF AS THE FIRST MONTHLY DR WHO NEWS MAGAZINE AMUSED ME AS 'CT' HAS BEEN DOING THIS FOR YEARS! MOST OF THE NEWS HAS BEEN LIFTED OUT OF 'CT'..."

This resulted in a very poor response from DWAS members , but I have received many supportive letters from 'CT' rea-ders who did purchase a copy. I believe Dr Who Bulletin is the first Dr Who news magazine, simply be-cause we publish ALL the news. When DWAS became recognised by the BBC, all their news content was vet-ted, meaning they could only print news which had the BBC's approval, which is why they now feature so little news. For example, in 1979,the DWAS revealed that Davros would return, but a similar announ-cement today would result in trouble. I asked Gordon Roxburgh to justify his words to which he replied that I was a bad ed-itor for letting the cat out of the bag about the returning foes and the surprise special screening at the NFT. Yet, this is just the type of news they used to publish. It is also notable that when I challen-ged him for an exam-ple of 'lifted' news -he remained silent!

BBC Enterprises have also been active,and were rather steamed up about DWB selling commercially.They re cently wrote to Furbi-

'NFT' Success

The screening of 72 episodes at the 'NFT', during the last week end in October, was an overwhelming suc-cess. Fans and non-fans alike packed the two cinemas over the entire weekend with many people without tickets being turned away. There were also guest appearances by Barry Letts, Terrance Dicks, Douglas Cam-field, John Nathan Turner, Anthony Ain-ley, Heather Hartnell and the second Dr , Patrick Troughton.

Plans are now under-way for holding a similar event in 1984, when Dr Who comes of age.

FULL REPORT NEXT ISSUE

New Strike Threat

The Association of Broadcasting Staff strike, which has so far crippled the BBC's sports coverage, may spread to entertain-ment productions. A major series about Jesus Christ has so far been cancelled , because of a dispute over pay for technici-ans who work on lo-cation. The last story goes out just 2 days before filming ends and if strikes spread to studios , then it will be lost. Robert Holmes's new story is also in da-nger. All of the location work for 'The Planet of ...' has been completed and all work finished on November 1st.

SEASON 21 NEWS : 3&4

dden Planet' banning 'DWB' from their shelves. Whilst I commence negotiatio n s with the BBC in an attempt to obtain a license, 'DWB' will be available by post only. What amazes me is the fact that some-one has gone to the trouble to produce a magazine based on one of their shows a n d they immediately act as though it is the biggest crime on the Earth. After all, in the long-run, 'DWB' can only be good publicity f o r t h e programme.

Despite the above 2 setbacks, my enthusi-asm for the continu al existence of the magazine is greate r than ever but I must stress how important it is to subscribe to each issue as retail sales are forbidden and 'CT' may refuse to take my adverts.

I am sorry i f it appears I have made a meal out of giving this priority o v e r the rest of the news this issue but I feel the readership should know the progression of what is, afterall, their magazine.

/ERRATUM/ Last month we incorrectly stated the price of the new BBC video. It should have read '£39 95' .

Silurians Sea Devils Daleks & Davros!

Season 21 will s e e a whole host of familiar monsters pitted against the Doctor. Firstly, in 'Warriors of the Deep', the Sea Devils and Silurians will once again try to regain their planet. One o f t h e Silurians, Icthar, was apparently involved in the Jon Pertwee story 'The Silurians' a n d is the last member of the 'Silurian Triad'. The Sea Devils are led by Sauvx, commander of Elite Group One . Incidentally, Kamelion will not appear in this story.

Ressurection of the Daleks, predictably , centres around t h e Daleks' attempt t o free their creator , the mad scientist Dav-ros, who has b e e n held prisoner on Earth for 70 odd years for crimes against humani-ty. This will be his third story and we -should also see the inside of a proper Dalek. This story also sees the return of the all powerful 'Dalek Elite' in the form of the Black Dalek. . .

NEWS in BRIEF

WHO DARES productions have now released a K9 print for £1 75. It is more lavish than the first two and is bound in plastic film.

THE RADIO TIMES SPECIAL is now available and costs just £1 50, even cheaper than its originally conceived pri-ce of £2.

JON PERTWEE currently appears on the televi sion advert to promote 'Sharwood's' range of curry dishes.

KINGSBURY library in North London recently staged a success fu l Dr Who exhibition with guests such as Mark Strickson and Terrance Dicks dropping in. A Yeti and a Sea Devil prop were also displayed.

THE NFT Norwich branc h will be holding a sim-ilar screening o f Dr Who episodes, like those shown recently, on November 19-20th . Edinburgh and Newca-stle will also be sta ging similar programm-es during Nov/Dec.

TURLOUGH will not be leaving in 'Frontios' as rumoured last issue but will probably exit in 'Planet of Fire'.

PUFFIN books have re-printed a paper—back version of Alan Road's 'The Making of a T V Series'. It retails for £1 95 and is available from most bookshops.

TARGET DIARY: There is very little to report on this month except to say that 'Five Drs' is released on Novem-ber 24th, price £1 50-(paperback) with the hardback out simulta-neously.

BLACK ORCHID, which was recently repeated on BBC1, had an ave-rage audience of 4·69 according to 'BARB' , placing it 48th in the television chartings.

STARLOG, the American sci-fi magazine, has an interview with Tom Baker and Lis Sladen in the latest issue.

DOCTOR WHO swept the board in the televi-sion categories of this year's Starburst Awa-rds.

TARGET BONANZA WINNERS The Winner: John D . Edward. Runners-up: Graham Baird, Richard Berry, James Bolton , Foung Cheng, A l a n Colclough, David Cro-ss, Christopher Frost, George Haysom, Gregory Higman, Simon Horton, Alan Jack, S i m o n Johnson, Brian Kitts, Ian Kitts, Hendrick Korzeniowski, Anthony Moretta, Sharon Mich-elle Prior, Matthew Roberts, Robert Unsw-orth, James Woolley . (Graham receives '80' novels, a framed pos-ter and 'A Celebratin ' and all runners-up re-ceive a copy of 'Dr Who: A Celebration.

End for The Master?

It has been rumoured that The Master will meet his ultimate fate in next season's 5th story, 'Planet of Fire' written b y Peter Grimwade. Although this hasn't yet been officially confirmed, it would seem a logi-cal step to take a s he has (in the guise of Anthony Ainley) , completely spanned the era of Peter Davison. Also, the job of writ-ing the character in to new situations i s becoming increasingly difficult with the plots becoming very predictable.

MORE NEWS — PAGES 4, 15

SEASON NEWS

TURLOUGH RESCUES PERI IN PLANET OF FIRE

Resurrection of the Daleks sees the re-turn of John Scott Martin. He first played a Dalek in the 1965 story 'The Chase'. Cy Town also returns. The Dalek voices are by Royce Mills and Brian Miller, who was Dugdale in the recent 'Snakedance'.

We can now confirm that Turlough will leave in Planet of Fire which is set on the planet 'Sarn'. It will also feature Kamelion to a large extent.

Story 6, by Robert Holmes, is titled: 'CAVES OF ANDROZAMI' and story 7: 'TWIN DILEMNA'. A writer new to Doctor Who is thought to have written this script.

In all, the season will feature eight or nine new monsters, some new and some old.

NEXT MONTH: THE NEW DAVROS AND WHY MICHAEL WISHER DID NOT RECREATE THE ROLE HE MADE FAMOUS.

Classic in Colour

A colour copy of the classic Jon Pertwee story: The Deamons, has been returned to the BBC archives. It was found in America and has been converted into the British PAL colour system.

It was shown as part of the NFT Weekend.

The Silurians, Inferno and Mind of Evil are now the only stories not to be totally in colour, but the first two stories are rumoured to have also been found abroad, as reported last month.

NO 1984 CONVENTION

Despite its enormous success last Easter, BBC Enterprises are not plaaning another 'Celebration' till the 25th Anniversary of Doctor Who.

OCTOBER SUMMARY

The recent Season 19 repeats did extremely well, according to 'MRIB'. Their figures put part 4 of 'Visitation' at 14 in the charts with 7·39 m, whilst 'Kinda' attracted 7·69 also at 14.

ANALYSIS · Video

The dream of watching an old Doctor Who story at the power of your finger-tips became a reality last month, when the BBC released the first of their Dr Who videos. This news, unsurprisingly, has thrilled fans everywhere and they will, at long last, be able to view stories that haven't been shown on the television for many years, as and when they like. What nobody seems to have realised, is the possibility that video will destroy the reputations of the stories to be selected for video release, with a financial disadvantage included.

This theory can best be explained with mention of the recent 'NFT' weekend over which 70 old episodes were shown. To span the entire two days would have set you back between £16-18. For this, you would see 35 episodes, once through only. You would then, undeniably, enjoy them immensely, and the highlights of these episodes would remain in your mind for a long time after. Example: If you viewed the entire 'Daemons', then you would probably appreciate why it has developed a classic status, having watched it once through, as did 9 million people more than 10 years ago.

Then, if you were to buy the video tape of 'Doctor Who and the Revenge of the Cyber-men', a perfectly reasonable offering featuring both a famous Doctor and an equally popular enemy, it would set you back between £35-45. You would then view it and the first time through you would undoubtably feel the pangs of nostalgia shooting through your body. Having spent a vast sum of money, you won't put it away to collect dust, but, instead you would view it a second time, this time to catch certain parts of the plot which you missed first time around. Then, a third time to predict when the third Cyber-man from the left will do one thing or another. By the fourth time, you practically know the script word for word. By now, the story, which may once have been a personal favourite, is an utter bore and has totally lost its appeal. In fact, given the choice between 'Revenge of the Cybermen' and 'The Horns of Nimon', nine times out of ten you would opt for the latter! What it all boils down to is that whilst it sounds appealing, a Dr Who story on video, unless viewed once, can only be bad for the programme. And to watch it just once when it costs around £35 is extremely expensive with the only solution being to join a video-rental club.

Believe it or not, video can also be bad news for people who don't own machines. The only access they have to seeing old stories is through repeats and if the BBC decide to screen old stories then they would obviously favour the classic tales to achieve higher ratings. But if Dr Who on video turns out to be a success, then presumably classic Dr Who stories will be selected for release to keep sales high. Therefore, with financial reasons in mind, the BBC would stop showing repeats. After all, who wants to spend £40 on a tape when that same story may have already been repeated or the prospect of the BBC rescreening that story is high?

In the end, the only people who will be smiling, will be the executives of 'BBC Enterprises!'

TERMINUS — ENLIGHTENMENT

TERMINUS

Hastily billed as a story : "Definately not for the squeamish", like Earthshock the year before, many people looked forward to this story confident that it would top the season-polls. Most were to be disappointed though episode one was full of the suspence filled atmosphere similar to the first episode of Earthshock. After the nail-biting lead-up to the climax of part one, which was expected to see the return of an old monster or the debut of a new JNT creation, the viewer was almost conned when what should happen to walk onto the scene but a band of dishevelled lepers. Thereon, the story progressed into a charade of poor acting, complex mumbo-jumbo jargon (of which to understand you need degrees in physics/chemistry) and to top it of, an alien which looks more like a cuddly toy! However, every story has good points and the sets looked very good and were used to their full effect with the directing of Mary Ridge. The Vanir costumes looked most impressive, till the head-pieces were removed. Perhaps the vanir should have been robots, which I thought they were when they first came into view. This would seem more sensible sinee presumably they wouldn't become contaminated with Lazars disease, and would also add an element of fear. Whilst I'm sure this story appealed to the Einsteins of this world (as the Mara chronologies were probably viewed enthusiastically by Buddhists) I'm in favour of stories which appeal to the majority rather than minority groups. Thus, Terminus gets my thumbs-down!

ENTERTAINMENT VALUE.....7½
ORIGINALITY.....9½
ACTING.....8
MUSIC(SOUND).....9
CLIFFHANGERS.....7½
SETS.....9½
COSTUMES.....9
EFFECTS.....9
MONSTERS.....7
OVERALL STORY.....7½

83½%

ENLIGHTENMENT

This was one of the rare cases in Doctor Who in which the story's 'classic' status was largely down to the visual presentation rather than the script and storyline. From start to finish, the story maintained a snappy direction complimenting the 'glossy' atmosphere. All the sets were magnificent and though the storyline was a little far-fetched, it was the outstanding production which eventually won the day. Lynda Baron, in my opinion, is quite simply the best female villain ever to grace the show where-as Leee(Mansell)John wins the '1983 Tim Barlow Award' for bad acting. Whilst he is arguably a good singer, his acting abilities leave a lot to be desired. There's always room in each incarnation for a fantasy tale (Celestial Toymaker, Mind Robber, and , to some extent, Carnival of Monsters and Warriors' Gate) and it is to this category that we can place 'Enlighten-ment'. Of course, the very thought of sailing-ships flying through space is ridiculous but was made all the more believable by the superb space effects. For me, one of the highlights was the splen-did incidental music which matched the atmosphere per-fectly and is definately my personal favourite score ever in Doctor Who. I must admit, that although I heap tons of praise on this story, I still don't fully understand the concept of 'Enlightenment', and look forward to the book immensely. which is due out early in 1984.

ORIGINALITY.....9
ACTING.....9½
ENTERTAINMENT VALUE.....9½
MUSIC(SOUND).....10
CLIFFHANGERS.....9½
SETS.....10
COSTUMES.....9
EFFECTS.....9½
ALIENS.....9
OVERALL STORY.....9½

94½%

KING'S DEMONS

The main problem of this story is that it was given the unenviable task of ending a season plagued by strikes and resulting in the axeing of the final story of the season. The season was to have ended spectacularly with the Daleks and it was only by extreme effort on the half of the production team that King's Demons was saved. The story thus appeared very rushed and off-balance. One of my main criticisms with JNT is the level of coinci-dence in his scripts. (Arc of Infinity's main downful was the clumsy reintroduction of Tegan who just so happens to be Colin Frazer's cousin). Out of all the planets in the u-niverse 'WHY' does the fifth Doctor keep bumping into his old adversary, the Master ? At least the Pertwee / Master clashes were explained more logically ! And also, 'WHY' does the Master keep disgui-sing himself ? (I personally wouldn't mind explanatio ns to these two questions).

I feel Terence Dudley is the worst of the new JNT team of writers/directors having had a hand in Meglos, Four to Doomsday, Black Orchid as well as King's Demons which con-tained various scriptual er-rors. My last gripe is that dreaded automatom: Kamelion . I can only assume that it has been introduced because of JNT's 'adoration' for the Americans. Afterall, all of their sci-fi products contains at least one humerous compa-nion of the mechanical kind!

ORIGINALITY.....8½
ACTING.....8½
ENTERTAINMENT VALUE.....8
MUSIC(SOUND).....9
CLIFFHANGER.....7½
SETS.....9½
COSTUMES.....9
EFFECTS.....9½
ALIENS.....8
OVERALL STORY.....8

1ST : ENLIGHTENMENT...94½%
2ND : MAWDRYN UNDEAD..91½%
3RD : SNAKEDANCE.....89%
4TH : ARC OF INFINITY.88½%
5TH : KING'S DEMONS...85½%
6TH : TERMINUS.....83½%

POSTBAG

'CT' CRITIC

I was rather amused by the editorial comment (October issue of 'CT') which claimed that most of your news was lifted out of 'Celestial-Toyroom' and that 'CT' had been a news-thing for years! I don't quite see how anyone could produce a news bulletin several pages long everymonth using 'CT' as its source, as that has barely a page ! And that is usually old news ... there is a rather striking example of the difference - between you and it, they have about 5 lines on the BFI do whilst you have half a page, giving full details, though CT did have a paragraph onit in their September issue.

I was interested to read your review of the 'Dr Who : A Celebration' book. Whilst agreeing with you on many points, I think it does fall down on a couple of things , the most obvious one being the incredible waste of paper down the margins ! I know that may sound a very picky point, but what with that , and the large print, the book is almost twice the size than it need be. And as you pointed out, the colour pictures of the Drs were rather poor in quality, especially the ones of Troughton and Pertwee.And there is the occasional glaring error, such as Tegan walking into the Tardis while it was grounded having the chamelion circuit repaired by the 'newly reincarnated Dr in Logopolis'.

Marion Breeze
London N19.

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DWB 'PUBLICATION'

After seeing DWB(3) in 'CT' and seeing it criticised, I decided to check it out for myself. As far as I'm concerned, the 'exclusives' are 'exclusives!' And I was more than pleased with the publication (publication seems a better term than 'fanzine!').

Steve Rogers
Suffolk.

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THESE ARE JUST TWO OF MANY LETTERS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE CRITICAL ATTACK IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF 'CT'.

BIGGER IS BETTER

Your 3rd issue was brilliant —even better than the first two ! The larger pages make it more spread out. The photographs on the centre pages came out disappointingly and shouldn't have been included. I liked the artwork on the back cover of the last two issues and I agree with Mr. Jounnou that it should be kept. I hope you bring back the reviews of DWM which has now slipped back over issues 81 and 82. I liked your reviews of 'Mawdryn' and 'A Celebration' which, as you say, is an excellent book.

I think Colin Brake meant a list of all the Target paperbacks ever, but if he did not, I would like to propose it now.

The 21st Season sounds like a classic and I just hope it is shown on Saturdays again. Any news on this ? You rather gave the monsters in 'Warriors of the Deep' away saying they had only appeared once. Considering the title, they have to be Sea Devils and Silurians.

I look forward to the poll results with great interest.

Bernard Power
East Sussex.

THE REASON THE PHOTO-SPREAD CAME OUT SO POORLY IS BECAUSE THE PHOTOS HAD TO BE REDUCED TO FIT THEM ALL IN. ON TOP OF THIS, A FAULT AT OUR PRINTERS RESULTED IN THE BOTTOM ROW FADING (ALSO EVIDENT IN A FEW OF OUR COVERS). IN FUTURE, PHOTOS WILL BE CO-PIED DIRECT FROM THE ORIGINAL TO PRODUCE CLEAR RESULTS.

A COMPLETE TARGET PAPER-BACK CHRONOLOGY WILL APPEAR IN THE NEW YEAR.

FINALLY, THE 21ST SEASON WILL ONCE AGAIN BE SCREENED DURING THE WEEK BUT IF THE VIEWING FIGURES ARE BAD, SEASON 22 WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY GO BACK TO SATURDAYS.

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ERRORS IN 5 DRS

The 'Five Doctors' is getting near now. From what I have heard it is going to throw up a few continuity errors . But if it is a good story,in my view, I will not mind.

Christopher Slatter
Surrey .

PS:How about an evil lady as a new super-villain to replace the Master . . ?

DALEKS IN DECLINE

I'll probably get a blasting for this from other readers, but I must admit I agree with your comments on 'Destiny of the Daleks' in DWB:2.

Although I don't consider 'Destiny' as Dr Who anywhere near its best, I would like to go a little further in defending it.

One of the main criticisms of this story was of the Daleks themselves. They look-ed bodged up, as if stuck together by sellotape and hope. Although I concede this probably wasn't the intention, I feel this was a very good way of showing the Daleks were declining. They were no longer the most powerful creatures in the universe. Like the Daleks themselves, the Dalek Empire was crumbling. The Dr made fun of the Daleks' inability to climb. Would anyone have ever dared laugh at the Daleks of old ? This story shows the decline of the Daleks (in fictional terms), even more graphically than 'Evil of the Daleks' .

If we forget the Romana regeneration scene (PLEASE forget it !) there were some quite good scenes in this story...

Trevor Lambert
South Yorkshire.

****

SNAPPED!

Thanks for supplying me with DWB. I was expecting, however, firstly BARB ratings , ie:the official ones and secondly, more news on the mon-ster season. If you know—— why can't you tell us ? It's not as if knowing the monster is going to give us the full plot. I hoped that you would do a scoop and review the novel, 'Mawdryn Undead'.It's out in hardback and would've been interesting.

On page 7, the two Patrick Troughton photos have me in the background !

David Adams
Merseyside.

I FELT I MIGHT BE TREADING ON DANGEROUS GROUND REVEALING THE MONSTERS TOO EARLY.THE 'BARB' RATINGS WERE INCLUDED BUT THEY JUST FEATURED THE AVERAGE AUDIENCE PER EPISODE AND FINALLY, SPACE WOULD NOT PERMIT A BOOK REVIEW LAST MONTH. I FEEL IT IS FAIRER TO REVIEW THE PAPERBACKS AS THEY ARE RELEASED AS THIS IS WHAT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE BUY .

CLASSICS ON VIDEO

I've just come across your magazine and I felt I must drop you a line to compliment you on what has been a very enjoyable read.

The part I enjoyed most was your review of 'Dr Who - A Celebration'. I think your views totally sum up how I feel about this excellent book. True, there are mistakes made (I wish they had given the original title of each episode for the early Hartnell stories) but then, most books are not perfect, and it is a very compelling read.

At last ! The BBC are set to launch into the world of video with 'Revenge of the Cybermen'. I did enjoy seeing this story very much on TV , but I think that a much better story could've been chosen: Daleks, Daemons or Sea Devils. Still, perhaps next year , these, and other classics , will be released.

I totally agree with the letter you printed, concerning a 'Six Faces' season next year. It would certainly go down well after what sounds a very promising 21st season.

M. Smallman
Staffs.

****

A KINDA LETDOWN

Congratulations on a splendid third issue and thankyou for all the interesting news and features. Especially welcome was the news of the 'NFT's' programme of Dr Who episodes. It is a pity that the programme was not better organised as classics such as War Games finish prohibitedly late. Nonetheless, I will be attending both days.

On the subject of Dr Who in the ratings I disagree that the high position of 'Kinda' (part 1) meant that this episode was particularly outstanding. Is it not more logical to presume that the attraction of 'Visitation' (part 4) caused viewers to tune in to see next week's offering from Dr Who, only to be disappointed ? I, personally, am one of the lunatics who happens to think that 'Kinda' was an excellent Dr Who story, but it's easy to see what gave it its reputation.

David Cowham
Watford
Herts.

****

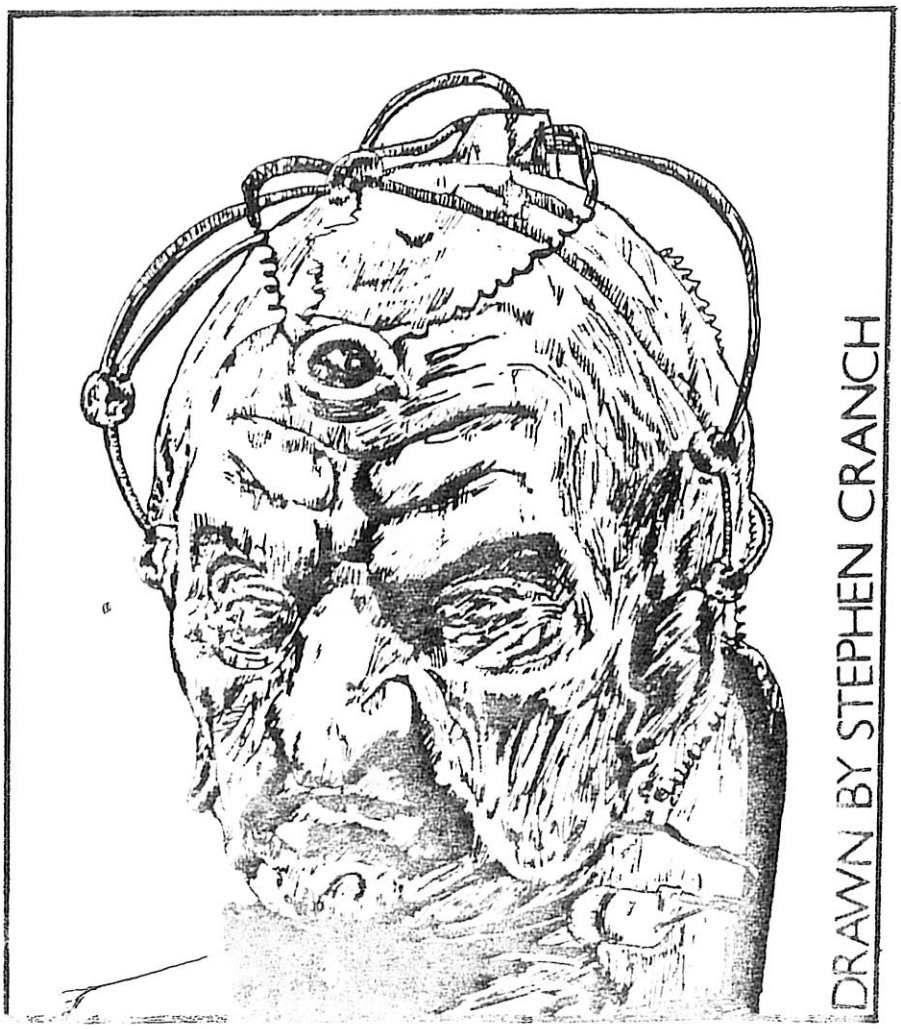
VIEWS ON WILLIAMS

'DWB' certainly fulfils its purpose of being a serious, informational fanzine. I found your article on Graham Williams particularly interesting. I had exactly the same feelings on seeing 'The Androids of Tara'. However, I do disagree on other points concerning the seasons' gradual decline. I will list, in my opinion, the stories which caused this deterioration: 'The Invisible Enemy' saw the introduction of K9, which might have worked without weaponry. The scenes inside the Doctor were blatantly copied from 'Fantastic Voyage', which, I think, 'FV' got right——it can't be done on foot! Next on my list is 'Sunmakers'——probably the first ever comedy intentionally written for Dr Who . To me, this didn't work at all . 'The Invasion of Time' was good for 3 episodes, but the fourth , with the ridiculous Tardis scene, was the worst episode that I could ever remember watching, and seemed to be a mockery of 'Who itself , which is something that can definately be said of 'The Armageddon Factor'——Drax, an escaped Time-Lord who had done time in Brixton! The 'AF' also gave us our first glimpse of Lalla Ward, the second worst thing ever to happen to 'Who (I agree that Doug Adams was the worst !)

So, to Season 17. Your argument that if you took away the comedy, the stories were excellent. - I missed 'Destiny of the Daleks', but 'Nightmare of Eden' was excellent and grudgingly, I'll admit that 'Horns of Nimon' might have been good without the farce. 'The City of Death' fell down on a couple of points: the Dr had never met Leonardo Da Vinci('Masque of Mandragora') and secondly, one just can't walk on primeval earth. The ending to 'Creature from the Pit' turned what could've been a good story , into one of the all-time worst ! Neutron Stars have known properties and neutralizing its gravitational field by surrounding it in alluminium foil is not one of them——trivially impossible. The ending is, in general, what is remembered most about a story and in the last two seasons only 'Castrovalva' has had a consistently good ending. Maybe this will change in the forthcoming 'Monster' season ? Reading between the lines of your last two issues, am I correct in suggesting that the regeneration story will feature the Autons ?

Michael Long.

NO ! THE 'ROMANS' (1965) WAS THE MOST OVERTLY COMICAL STORY EVER !



DRAWN BY STEPHEN CRANCH

DWB TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY POLL RESULTS

FIRST BEST

1st) THE DALEKS by Terry Nation:147

2nd) THE DALEK INVASION OF EARTH by Terry Nation:131

3rd) THE TENTH PLANET by Kit Pedler & Gerry Davis:129

4th) THE CELESTIAL TOYMAKER by by Brian Hayles : 83

5th) THE WEB PLANET by Bill Strutton:66

6th) Dalek Masterplan.....58
7th) Keys of Marinus.....49
8th) The Chase.....34
9th) An Unearthly Child...20
") The War Machines.....20
11th) The Crusade.....12
12th) Galaxy 4.....10
13th) Edge of Destruction...8
14th) The Ark.....6
15th) Planet of Giants.....5
16th) The Time Meddler.....4

SECOND BEST

1st) WEB OF FEAR by Mervyn Haisman and Henry Lincoln:175

2nd) TOMB OF THE CYBERMEN by Kit Pedler & Gerry Davis :170

3rd) THE INVASION by Derrick Sherwin:108

4th) EVIL OF THE DALEKS by David Whitaker:107

5th) THE WAR GAMES by Malcolm Hulke & Terrance Dicks : 66

6th) The Abonimable Snowmen:52
7th) The Mind Robber.....33
8th) The Ice Warriors.....28
9th) The Moonbase.....22
10th) The Wheel in Space...15
11th) Power of the Daleks..10
12th) The Macra Terror.....8
") The Faceless Ones.....8
") The Krotons.....8
15th) Enemy of the World....7
16th) Fury from the Deep....6
17th) The Seeds of Death....5

THIRD BEST

1st) THE DAEMONS by Robert Sloman & Barry Letts:136

2nd) THE SEA DEVILS by Malcolm Hulke:123

3rd) THE THREE DOCTORS by Bob Baker & Dave Martin:101

4th) THE GREEN DEATH by Robert Sloman:81

5th) PLANET OF THE SPIDERS by Robert Sloman:77

6th) Spearhead from Space.70
7th) Terror of the Autons.65
8th) Frontier in Space....44
9th) The Time Warrior.....37
10th) Claws of Axos.....31
") Planet of the Daleks.31
12th) Death to the Daleks..26
13th) Carnival of Monsters.18
14th) Day of the Daleks....17
") Invasion of the Dinosaurs17
16th) The Curse of Peladon.16
17th) The Silurians.....11
18th) The Inferno.....9
") The Monster of Peladon...9
20th) Ambassadors of Death..6

FOURTH BEST

1st) GENESIS OF THE DALEKS by Terry Nation:117

2nd) PYRAMIDS OF MARS by Robert Holmes & Lewis Greifer : 111

3rd) THE ARK IN SPACE by Robert Holmes : 109

4th) LOGOPOLIS by Christopher H.Bidmead : 85

5th) THE DEADLY ASSASSIN by Robert Holmes:83

6th) The Talons of Weng Chiang.52
7th) The Keeper of Traken.47
8th) Invasion of Time.....37
9th) The Brain of Morbius.34
10th) Terror of the Zygons..32
11th) The City of Death....31
12th) The Robots of Death..27
13th) Revenge of the Cybermen 19
14th) Warriors' Gate.....18
15th) Robot.....14
16th) Full Circle.....13
17th) Planet of Evil.....12
") Masque of Mandragora.12
") Horror of Fang Rock..12
20th) The Seeds of Doom....11
21st) The Sunmakers.....9
22nd) The Invisible Enemy...7
") The Pirate Planet.....7
") The State of Decay....7
25th) The Armageddon Factor.6

FIFTH BEST

1st) EARTHSHOCK by Eric Saward:256

2nd) MAWDRYN UNDEAD by Peter Grimwade:126

3rd) ENLIGHTENMENT by Barbara Clegg:106

4th) VISITATION by Eric Saward:103

5th) SNAKEDANCE by Chris Bailey:90

6th) Castrovalva.....56
7th) Black Orchid.....45
8th) Kinda.....43
9th) Terminus.....33
10th) Arc of Infinity.....29
11th) The King's Demons....26
12th) Four to Doomsday.....7
13th) Time-Flight.....3

FIRST WORST

1st) THE GUNFIGHTERS by Donald Cotton:46

2nd) THE SMUGGLERS by Brian Hayles:17

3rd) THE ROMANS by Dennis Spooner:12

4th) The Savages.....11
5th) The Aztecs.....8
") The Myth Makers.....8
7th) Marco Polo.....7
") The Reign of Terror...7
") The Crusade.....7
10th) Galaxy 4.....6
") The Massacre.....6
12th) An Unearthly Child....5
") Planet of Giants.....5
14th) The Rescue.....4
15th) The Web Planet.....3

SECOND WORST

1st) THE SPACE PIRATES by Robert Holmes:32

2nd) THE HIGHLANDERS by Elwyn Jones & Gerry Davies:24

") THE UNDERWATER MENACE by Geoffrey Orme : 24

4th) The Krotons.....21
5th) The Faceless Ones....12
6th) Enemy of the World...10
7th) The Macra Terror.....9
8th) The Dominators.....7
9th) Fury from the Deep....6
") The Seeds of Death....6

THIRD WORST

1st) THE MUTANTS by Bob Baker & Dave Martin:22

2nd) AMBASSADORS OF DEATH by David Whitaker & Malcolm Hulke:20

3rd) THE MONSTER OF PELADON by Brian Hayles:16

4th) The Time Monster.....14
5th) Inferno.....13
") Colony in Space.....13
7th) Mind of Evil.....12
8th) Invasion of the Dinosaurs.10
9th) The Curse of Peladon..9
10th) Carnival of Monsters..8
11th) Day of the Daleks.....7
12th) The Green Death.....6
") Death to the Daleks...6
14th) The Claws of Axos.....5
") The Time Warrior.....5
16th) The Silurians.....3
") The Three Doctors.....3

Cont'd...

FOURTH WORST

1st) THE HORNS OF NIMON by Anthony Read : 33

2nd) DESTINY OF THE DALEKS by Terry Nation: 23

3rd) MEGLOS by John Flanagan & Andrew McCulloch: 21

4th) Underworld.....16
") Nightmare of Eden....16
6th) Creature from the Pit 14
7th) Androids of Tara.....8
8th) The Invisible Enemy...7
9th) The Stones of Blood...5
10th) Masque of Mandragora..4
") The Sunmakers.....4
") The Power of Kroll....4
") The City of Death.....4
14th) Image of the Fendahl..3
") The Ribos Operation...3
") Warriors' Gate.....3

FIFTH WORST

1st) TIME-FLIGHT by Peter Grimwade: 40

2nd) FOUR TO DOOMSDAY by Terence Dudley: 31

3rd) TERMINUS by Steve Gallagher : 26

4th) The King's Demons....17
5th) Kinda.....15
6th) Castrovalva.....14
7th) Arc of Infinity.....13
8th) Black Orchid.....12
9th) Snakedance.....7
10th) The Visitation.....6
") Enlightenment.....6
12th) Mawdryn Undead.....4

Discussion; 13.

ALL — TIME FAVOURITE STORIES

1st) PD: EARTHSHOCK by Eric Saward-1982/4.....219

2nd) PT: WEB OF FEAR by Mervyn Haisman & Henry Lincoln-1968/6...203

3rd) JP: THE DAEMONS by Robert Sloman & Barry Letts-1971/5.....190

4th) TB: GENESIS OF THE DALEKS by Terry Nation-1975/6.....145

5th) TB: THE ARK IN SPACE by Robert Holmes & John Lucarotti-1975/4.139

6th) JP: THE SEA DEVILS by Malcolm Hulke-1972/6.....138

7th) TB: PYRAMIDS OF MARS by Robert Holmes & Lewis Greifer-1975/4.135

8th) PT: TOMB OF THE CYBERMEN by Kit Pedler & Gerry Davies-1967/4.129

9th) JP: THE THREE DOCTORS by Bob Baker & Dave Martin-1972/4..111
") TB: LOGOPOLIS by Christopher H. Bidmead-1981/4.....111

11th) TB: THE DEADLY ASSASSIN by Robert Holmes-1976/4.....98
12th) WH: THE DALEKS by Terry Nation-1963/7.....93
13th) PT: THE INVASION by Derrick Sherwin-1968/8.....89
14th) PT: EVIL OF THE DALEKS by David Whitaker-1967/7.....88
15th) JP: THE GREEN DEATH by Robert Sloman-1973/6.....83
16th) WH: DALEK INVASION OF EARTH by Terry Nation-1964/6...79
17th) JP: SPEARHEAD FROM SPACE by Robert Holmes-1970/4.....78
18th) JP: TERROR OF THE AUTONS by Robert Holmes-1971/4.....71
19th) TB: TALONS OF WENG CHIANG by Robert Holmes-1977/6....70
20th) PD: SNAKEDANCE by Chris Bailey-1983/4.....62
21st) JP: PLANET OF THE SPIDERS by Robert Sloman-1974/6....52
22nd) PD: MAWDRYN UNDEAD by Peter Grimwade-1983/4.....42
23rd) WH: TENTH PLANET by Kit Pedler and Gerry Davis-1966/4...40
24th) WH: THE WEB PLANET by Bill Strutton-1965/6.....38
") JP: FRONTIER IN SPACE by Malcolm Hulke-1973/6.....38
26th) TB: THE KEEPER OF TRAKEN by Johnny Byrne-1981/4.....36
") PD: CASTROVALVA by Christopher H. Bidmead-1982/4.....36
28th) PT: THE WAR GAMES by Malcolm Hulke & Terrance Dicks-1969/10.35
29th) TB: THE ROBOTS OF DEATH by Chris Boucher-1977/4.....33
30th) TB: THE BRAIN OF MORBIUS by Terrance Dicks-1976/4....32
31st) WH: THE CELESTIAL TOYMAKER by Brian Hayles-1966/4....28
") JP: PLANET OF THE DALEKS by Terry Nation-1973/6.....28
") TB: TERROR OF THE ZYGONS by Robert Banks Stewart-1975/4.....28
") TB: THE INVASION OF TIME by Graham Williams & Anthony Read -1978/6...28

35th) PT: THE MIND ROBBER by Peter Ling-1968/5.....27
36th) PD: THE VISITATION by Eric Saward-1982/4.....25
") PD: ENLIGHTENMENT by Barbara Clegg-1983/4.....25
38th) JP: THE TIME WARRIOR by Robert Holmes-1973/4.....23
39th) WH: THE KEYS OF MARINUS by Terry Nation-1964/6.....21
") PD: BLACK ORCHID by Terence Dudley-1982/2.....21
41st) JP: Death to the Daleks..20
42nd) TB: City of Death.....19
43rd) PD: Terminus.....18
44th) WH: The Chase.....17
") PD: The King's Demons.17
46th) WH: Dalek Masterplan..16
47th) JP: Carnival of Monsters.15
48th) PT: Abonimable Snowmen.14
49th) WH: An Unearthly Child..13
") TB: Revenge of the Cybermen .13
") TB: State of Decay....13
52nd) JP: Claws of Axos.....12
53rd) PD: Kinda.....11
54th) JP: The Silurians.....10
") TB: Full Circle.....10

BEST DOCTOR

1st) JON PERTWEE.....34½%

2nd) TOM BAKER.....27½%
3rd) PATRICK TROUGHTON...18%
4th) PETER DAVISON.....14½%
5th) WILLIAM HARTNELL....5½%

BEST COMPANION

1st) SARAH JANE SMITH....34%

2nd) TEGAN JOVANKA.....21½%
3rd) JO GRANT.....18½%
4th) JAMIE McCRIMMON.....8%
5th) NYSSA.....4½%
") TURLOUGH.....4½%
7th) VICTORIA WATERFIELD..3%
8th) ZOE HERRIOT.....3%
9th) THE BRIGADIER.....1½%
") ROMANA (≠ 2).....1½%

BEST SEASON

1st) SEASON '5'.....20½%

2nd) SEASON '13'.....16%
3rd) SEASON '18'.....14½%
4th) SEASON '10'.....9%
5th) SEASON '14'.....7½%
6th) SEASON '7'.....6%
") SEASON '8'.....6%
8th) SEASON '12'.....5½%
9th) SEASON '1'.....4%
") SEASON '9'.....4%
11th) SEASON '16'.....3%
12th) SEASON '20'.....2½%
13th) SEASON '11'.....1%
14th) SEASON '4'.....½%

Cont'd...

BEST PRODUCERS

1st) PHILIP HINCHCLIFFE..33%
2nd) JOHN NATHAN-TURNER..32%
3rd) BARRY LETTS.....22%
5th) VERITY LAMBERT.....5½%
6th) PETER BRYANT.....4½%
7th) INNES LLOYD.....3%

BEST MONSTERS

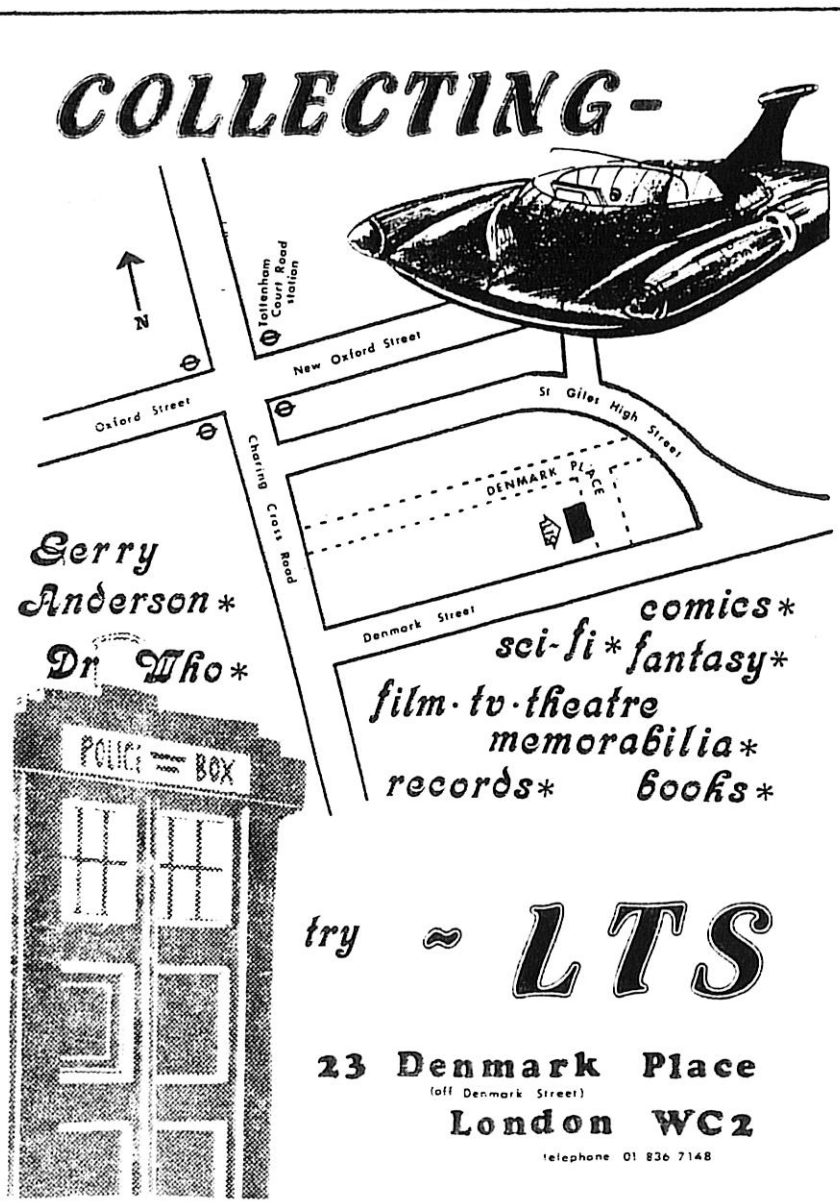
1st) THE CYBERMEN.....51%
2nd) THE DALEKS.....23%
3rd) THE YETI.....6%
4th) SEA DEVILS/SILURIANS.5%
") THE AUTONS.....5%
6th) THE ICE WARRIORS.....4%
7th) THE MARA.....3½%
8th) THE DRACONIONS.....2½%

ALL-TIME FAVOURITE NOVELS

1st) THE DAEMONS by Barry Letts, 1974.....28
2nd) THE WEB OF FEAR by Terrance Dicks, 1976.....26
") LOGOPOLIS by Christopher H. Bidmead, 1982.....26
4th) EARTHSHOCK by Ian Marter, 1983.....23
5th) THE ARK IN SPACE by Ian Marter, 1977.....22
6th) TOMB OF THE CYBERMEN by Gerry Davis, 1978.....19
7th) CASTROVALVA by Christopher H. Bidmead, 1983.....17
8th) THE ZARBI by Bill Strutton, 1965.....16
") WARRIORS' GATE by Steve Gallagher, 1982.....16
") TERMINUS by Steve Gallagher, 1983.....16
11th) THE AUTON INVASION by Terrance Dicks, 1974.....15
") THE DEADLY ASSASSIN by Terrance Dicks, 1977.....15
") FULL CIRCLE by Andrew Smith, 1982.....15
14th) THE SEA DEVILS by Malcolm Hulke, 1974.....14
") THE THREE DOCTORS by Terrance Dicks, 1975.....14
") THE PYRAMIDS OF MARS by Terrance Dicks, 1976.....14
") THE DALEK INVASION OF EARTH by Terrance Dicks, 1977.14
18th) THE DALEKS by David Whitaker, 1964.....13
") THE SPACE WAR by Malcolm Hulke, 1976.....13
20th) THE CAVE MONSTERS by Malcolm Hulke, 1974.....12
21st) The War Games.....11
") The Keeper of Traken.11
23rd) The Crusaders.....10
") The Tenth Planet.....10
") Keys of Marinus.....10
") The Leisure Hive.....10
27th) Curse of Peladon.....9
") Green Death.....9
") Planet of the Spiders.9
") Talons of Weng Chiang.9
31st) Abonimable Snowmen....8
") Terror of the Autons..8
") Genesis of the Daleks.8
") The Ribos Operation...8
") The Sunmakers.....8
36th) The Claws of Axos.....7
") An Unearthly Child....7
38th) The Doomsday Weapon...6
") The Ice Warriors.....6
") Invasion of Time.....6
") Enemy of the World....6
42nd) Day of the Daleks.....5
") The Giant Robot.....5
") The Loch Ness Monster.5
") The Mutants.....5
") Four to Doomsday.....5
47th) The Dinosaur Invasion.4
") The Seeds of Doom.....4
") The Brain of Morbius..4
") The Sontaran Experiment.4

BEST COVERS

TALONS OF WENG CHIANG, Cummins
THE KEEPER OF TRAKEN, Skilleter
LOGOPOLIS, Skilleter.....
WEB OF FEAR (new), Skilleter
DEADLY ASSASSIN, Achilleos..
CARNIVAL OF MONSTERS, Achilleos
DALEK INVASION OF EARTH, Achilleos
MEGLOS, Skilleter.....
PYRAMIDS OF MARS (new), Skilleter
PLANET OF THE SPIDERS.....



Rather than bore you with my recollections of the last 20 years, I shall air my views in relation to the results of the poll. In all, '70' people voted, a considerable achievement made all the more worthwhile by people remarking how much they enjoyed participating. As far as votes went for Hartnell and Troughton, some people declined, simply because they were too young to remember glorious black and white, but just as many were ready to take a stab at what they predicted were good or bad stories.

Starting at the beginning (what better place ?), and the best Hartnells. I should point out that the top 3 stories were neck and neck up to the last fews votes which eventually seperated the worthy winner. Troughton's 'Web of Fear' was an inevitable winner, though 'Tomb of the Cybermen' did make a frantic last effort towards the end. 'The Invasion' seemed destined for 4th place till it miraculously pipped the classic 'Evil of the Daleks' at the post. The poor placings of the Ice Warrior sagas leads me to question their alledged popularity. Despite the recent repeat, it is interesting to note how poorly 'The Krotons' finished. 'The Three Drs' seemed set to become the top voted Pertwee story simply on the strength of it featuring three Drs, but thankfully was overtaken by 'The Daemons' and 'The Sea Devils' (who make a welcome return next season). Robert Sloman featured three times in the top 5 Pertwee stories, though he has never written for another Doctor. The Peladon sagas and the Silurians did surprisingly bad, whereas the Autons maintained their durability admirably. 'Pyramids of Mars' seemed destined to become Baker's all-time best story but the recent repeat of 'Genesis of the Daleks' swayed many people to vote this 1st despite the fact that it was heavily editted, a placing I doubt it would otherwise have achieved, though it arguably deserves. Had the excellent story, 'Android Invasion' been repeated, then I am sure it would have featured highly in the poll. Sadly, this story appears to have become forgotten by many fans. To some extent, the same can also be said of 'Seeds of Doom', a much-praised story at the time of its broadcast, but our poll shows the ever-so-average 'Horror of Fang Rock' placed even higher ! 'Earthshock', of course, was voted Davison's best story and by a few freak early votes, Snakedance seemed certain to be the runner-up. However, votes for this story soon became far and few between and was eventually pushed down to fifth place. 'The Visitation' featured in most votes, though it was usually placed 3rd or 4th. It would appear that time destined 'Kinda' and 'Terminus' to a greater degree of popularity, though I hardly think 'Arc of Infinity' deserved to be placed so low.

Moving on, then, to the worst stories. 'Gunfighters' received the most votes overall for the Hartnell listing. All of the historicals feature in this category which is ashame as I'm sure many voted for them just because they are historicals. Even the less remembered historicals spawned one or two classics: 'The Crusade' and 'The Aztecs' among them. Although Robert Holmes is unquestionably the finest ever writer on Doctor Who, his initial two scripts leave a lot to be desired as far as popularity is concerned, being voted 3rd and 4th least popular Troughton stories. 'The Mutants' overtook 'The Ambassadors of Death' at the last few votes to emerge as the least popular Pertwee story, though it is interesting to note that all the unnovelised stories feature highly in this category. I am also surprised to find the stories voted 8-12 featured so unfavourably, of which 10 & and 12(both) I thought were highly original and entertaining. 'Horns of Nimon' and 'Destiny of the Daleks' predictably emerged as Bakers worst though in my opinion, 'Meglos', 'Underworld' and 'Invisible Enemy' to name but a few, are more worthy of this title. Finally, to Davison's least favourite, the worst being 'Time-Flight', a placing I agree with wholeheartedley. It is interesting to note how well it did in the season 19 polls, but it would appear that the test of time has taken its toll on what was, afterall, an absurd story. 'Four to Doomsday' confirms the unpopularity of this story, which I find baffling. I found it marvellous to watch and I'm sure there must be a good story-line in there, somewhere...

Now, the most important category, that of the All Time classic, won most unconvincingly by the recent 'Earthshock'. It is obvious why this story won, having created so much positive comment recently. Yet, is it really better than any of the stories in the top 8 ? Perhaps. But I feel it was placed first out of haste, being the best story for years, which it certainly is. But against six odd years of basically below-average production and storylines I feel people voted it first out of relief, if anything! However, 'Web of Fear' has emerged to become a true All-Time Classic and I doubt anyone who attended the NFT Weekend will dispute its placing. Because many people declined to vote for the black and white stories, William Hartnell, especially, suffers badly as a result, though it should be noted that had his stories been seen by everyone, they would probably have figured very well indeed. I can only attribute the high placing of 'Snakedance' to the fact that about '4' people, obviously Buddhists(!), voted it first. 'The Kings Demons' and 'Terminus' also had one or two firsts!

The best Doctor was eventually won by Jon Pertwee (at one stage, Troughton, Pertwee and Baker were all neck and neck). Sadly, Hartnell again suffers from lack of television appearances and I feel he is probably the best Doctor. Peter Davison still has another season to put his stamp on the role, so he may gain a few more fans yet!

Sarah Jane Smith convincingly won the Best Companion category. Tegan and Jo Grant also received many votes. Once again, they are mostly from the most recent years, with many of the excellent early companions (Barbara, Ian and Susan) left out.

The placing 1st of Season 5 'The Monster Season', bodes well for the forthcoming 21st 'Monster Season' which will feature no less than 8 monsters. Two Baker seasons follow next, the latter of which should be some enthusiasm to JNT.

Philip Hincliffe narrowly wins 1st place as best producer, eclipsing JNT by half a point, the latter obtaining a place I feel more worthy for Barry Letts or Verity Lambert to occupy.

One of the biggest surprises of the monster category, is the emmergence of 'The Cybermen' as the most popular monster, undoubtably on the strength of the recent 'Earthshock'. However, next years Dalek story, I feel, will sway the balance in the latter's favour.

Finally, the novels. For most of the time 'Logopolis' seemed certain to get first place but was finally overhauled by 'The Daemons' penned by Barry Letts. Only one of Terrance Dick's novels made the top 10 whereas Biddhead, Marter and Gallagher, have emerged as Target's finest writers.

The one thing that dissati-fies me about the 'Radio Times Special' is that it is a once decade publication, very unfortunate in that it outshines the 'Monthly' by by miles. There is almost flawless continuity between the latest special and the first which was published in 1973, with the size, paper quality and layout being the same. The 'Special' could be called 'The Best of Dr Who-A Celebration', since it fea-tures most of the highlights from this book, though where-as 'A Celebration' tended to talk down to its readers, the 'Special', on the other hand, is more enjoyable since it speaks 'with' its readers. 'A Celebration' is also put to shame by the 'Special's' flourish of colour: 64 pages (& a full colour poster) compared to the former's 8! Although the latest 'Special' is '5' times the price of the origi-nal, this is still amazingly good value. I would say the BBC incurred a loss overall on its latest publication, as colour is an extremely expen-sive process. However, I still maintain 'A Celebration' to be a worthy investment.

The magazine is completely illustrated with beautiful photographs including some previously unseen stills. The features on the Drs/companions are well researched with many new facts revealed. IE: Pat Troughton's wish for all five Drs to assemble anually for a special story, Heather Hart-nell's revelation that her late husband was 'heartbroken' to leave Dr Who which he loved so much, Tom Baker's realisa-tion that he 'may have out-stayed his welcome' and Peter Davison's fear that if he'd stayed in the show longer he may have been the last Dr! It is good to see the BBC haven't ignored the fans, with 'DWAS' getting a worthy mention, as well as some of the best fanzines. However, I did cringe slightly at the photos on pages 28 / 29: Any casual viewer can be forgiven for thinking all fans go to extremes and dress up as their favourite Doctors!

The poster was good in that it featured the strongest line-up for years: Peter Davison, now confident in the role of the Doctor, and what I regard as the best set of companions ever, Tegan and Turlough.

The customary behind - the - scenes feature is highlight-ed by the full page picture of 'The Malus' which looks set to become the most terri-fying creature for many years when it appears in 'The Awakening'.

Although I'm not a fan of Dr Who fiction / comic-strips, the Eric Saward story 'Birth of a Renegade' made compulsive reading and I feel it provided a satisfying ex-planation to Susan's origins. The Cybermen, of course, were simply added to make the story seem more frightening though I feel this wasn't necessary, but I, for one, would certainly like to see this story televised.

Another great advantage is how up to date the publication is, as evident by the listing of missing episodes with the recently discovered episodes of 'Dalek Masterplan' taken to account.

Finally, the walking Dr Who dictionary, Ian Levine, sum-marises all of the stories shown up to season 21, with particular bias towards his own personal favourites. Unfortunately, lack of room prevented him ellaborating more on the stories which are very vague to casual viewers.

It surprised me how much information the BBC have given concerning the next season and I wonder if 'JNT' knew they would be giving away so many details putting paid to his former, much-used catch-phrase: "Stay tuned!" If you look closely, on page 4, at the mural of 'JNT's' photographs, you will see one or the new types of Sea Devils, minus the mesh-net slip worn by the Pertwee version.

In all, a marvellous con-tribution by the BBC to the anniversary year and some compensation to the axeing of the special documentary. With the Marvel Special, plus the Unfolding Text still to come, Dr Who fans have had much to feast on lately.

Just one last word on the 'Radio Times Special': It may not be a bad idea to place a regular order at your local newsagent every decade!

Target;

Arc of Infinity*

Some readers will be wonder-ing why I haven't included the cover illustration of this novel (?) as I usually do when reviewing new Target publications. The simple answer is that whilst the covers for 'Castrovalva' and 'Earthshock' were literally vile, the cover for 'Arc of Infinity' is diabolical. But at least the above two books were excellently written, whereas Target's 'Arc of Infinity' has nothing in its favour! I find it strange - that Terrance Dicks has gone back to writing for ten year olds after his refreshingly new approach at writing sa-tyrical books (Sunmakers, Meglos and Four to Doomsday) all of which I enjoyed tho-roughly. To put it bluntly, the book is an insult to all intelligent 10 year olds and has to be among the, if not 'the' worst Target novel ever! I shall not even pro-ceed to pick out the bad points as I would be quoting from nearly every sentence in the book. Although this story came of none too popular on screen, mainly due to the poor directing of Ron Jones, it could have made a first class read.

I just hope this isn't a sign of things to come both on television and from Tar-get since Dicks has scripted and novelised the forthcoming anniversary story: Five Drs!

S*T*A*R * R*A*T*I*N*G: ***** -Excellent, ****Good, ***Fair, **Poor, *Awful.

* * * * * 'DWB' (c) 1983.

5 DRS' UPDATE

At the present time of going to press, the BBC are planning to broadcast 'Five Drs' on the evening of Friday, November 25th, rather than the 23rd. The BBC are anxious to achieve high ratings for this special and fear the popularity of ITV's Coronation St which is screened at 7 30 pm on Wednesdays, would be bad programme planning. The special will go out at 7 30 pm and will run for 90 minutes and 14 seconds up to the 9 O' clock news.

The new Tardis console, which has been drastically redesigned, makes its debut in this story.

Although 90 minute tapes are rare, they are manufactured, and should be used when recording this [illegible] for [illegible] purity.

Finally, there are no special opening titles. There will just be the usual stars and Davison's face, suggesting this will be an exclusively Peter Davison story. (DON'T FORGET THE 'RADIO TIMES', DATED NOV [illegible], WILL HAVE A FIVE DOCTORS' COVER AND AN INSIDE FEATURE)

READER WRITE-IN

Readers are free to send in any news, articles or artwork. News must be original and interesting and must not be copied directly from other Dr Who fanzines. Articles and artwork will be considered for publication but they should be of a very good standard. Original photos are also requested. You must state if you would like your items returned. A free issue of 'DWB' is sent to all contributors. Exceptional contributions will also be paid.

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED: Any Doctor Who related items. Write to:

Edward Allison
9 Stanford Crescent
Little Plumstead
Norwich
NORFOLK NR13 5JL.

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CLOISTER BELL 6/7. The latest issue of this long-running and popular fanzine includes an 'exclusive' interview with Lis Sladen, a sneaked preview of 'Warriors [illegible]', a cartoon sequel to Earthshock. Over 80 packed pages! (Send an 80p cheque/PO & an A5 SAE to:

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DECEMBER No 5

/RESURRECTION OF THE DALEKS/ A beautiful photo-spread of the eagerly waited story from the 21st Season, taken on location near Tower Bridge. NOT TO BE MISSED!

/'NFT WEEKEND' REPORT/ We look back at what were a very enjoyable two days: The interviews with the stars plus the standard of Dr Who episodes shown.

/THE FIVE DOCTORS/ We present the 'first' ever review of the 20th Anniversary story. After months of waiting, does it actually live up to the demanding expectations of the fans?

/MARVEL WINTER SPECIAL/ For their contribution to the anniversary celebrations, Marvel will publish a 'Special' featuring interviews with all the producers ever to have worked on the series. But do they get it right?

/CHRISTMAS COMPETITION/ A quiz that won't only test your Doctor Who knowledge, but will also provide some fascinating answers.

/JOUNNOU ON [illegible]/ A [illegible] piece of art from our newly discovered etcher, George Jounnou. This issue, he presents The Five Doctors.

/WORKING FOR THE YANKEE DOLLAR/ Our regular writer, Stephen Glancy, writes articles which aren't afraid to admit what outrageous feelings he may have, as his first article on the ratings showed. His second article concentrates on the BBC/JNT adoration for the Americans and asks 'Are the British ignored?'

/NEWS/ /LETTERS/ /XMAS MERCHANDISE/ /FREE ADS/

Video Success!

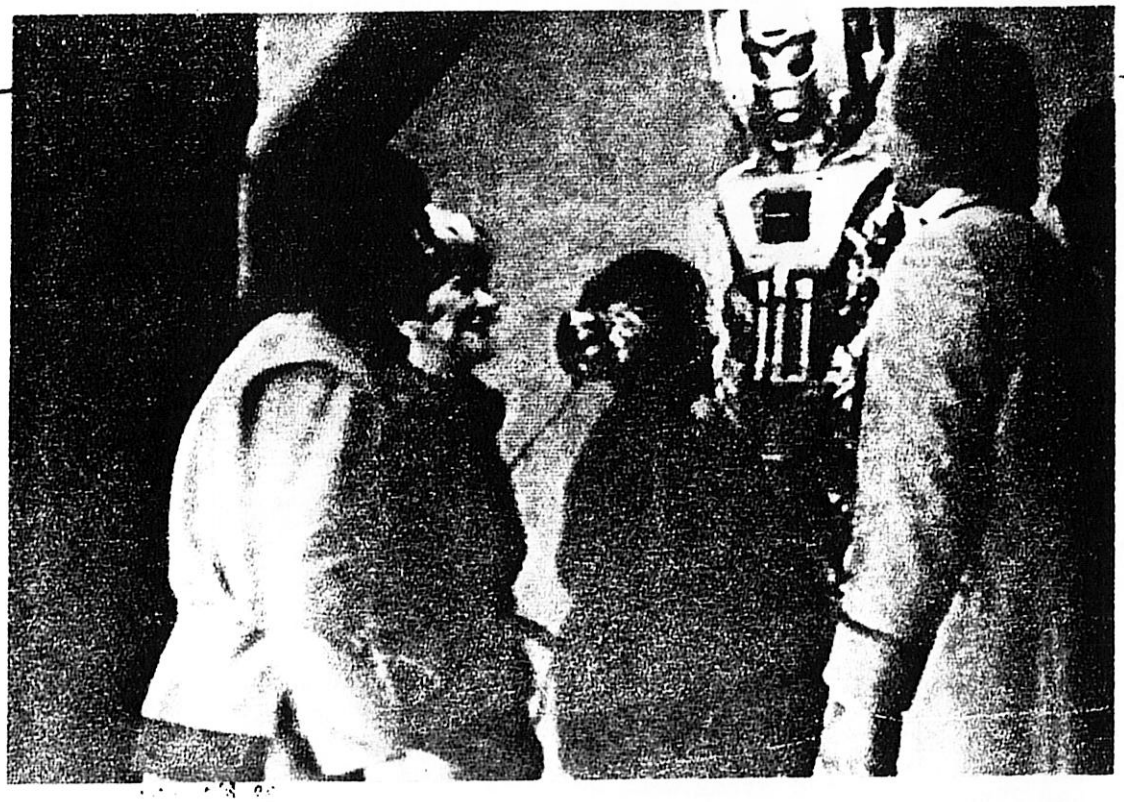
The new BBC video-tape, 'Revenge of the Cybermen', entered the video wholesale chart at number 18 on the week it was released. It beat the other BBC entertainment cassettes convincingly and could mean more releases!

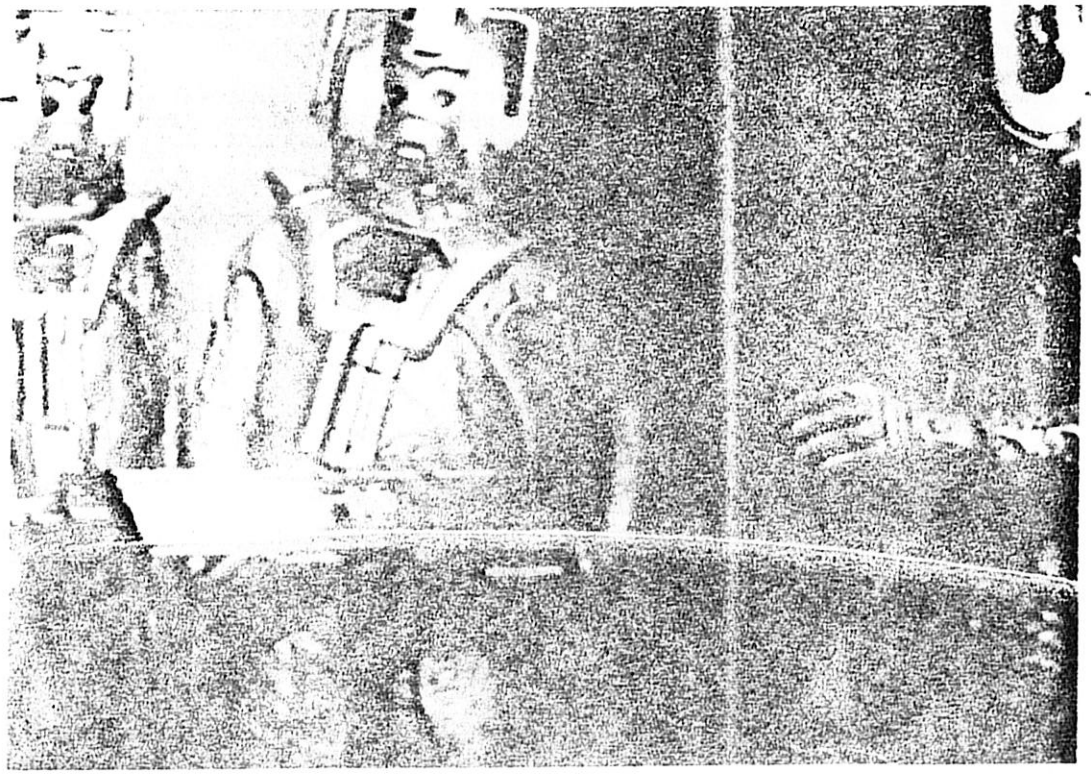
Ordering...

From now on, 'DWB' is only available through the post. All orders are despatched on the day following publication date.

To order the next issue, please send a crossed cheque/po for 55p (75p inc' P+P, 1st class) to: Gary Levy, 5 Whitegate Gdns, Harrow Weald, Middlesex - HA3 6BW.

PUBLISHED DECEMBER 2





...'EARTHSHOCK' - The All - Time Classic Story ??